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99TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
99-504

ORIGINAL

REAFFIRMING CONGRESS' RECOGNITION OF THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

MARCH 20, 1986.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. ASPIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 220]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 220) to recognize the vital role played by members of the National Guard and Reserve in the national defense, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the joint resolution as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress reaffirms its findings set out in section 1130(a) of Public Law 97-252 that —

(1) the National Guard and Reserve forces of the United States are an integral part of the total force policy of the United States for national defense and need to be ready to respond, on short notice, to augment the active military forces in time of national emergency;

(2) attracting and retaining sufficient numbers of qualified persons to serve in the Guard and Reserve is a difficult challenge during a period in which there is a decreasing number of young people from which to recruit; and

(3) the support of employers and supervisors in granting employees a leave of absence from their jobs to participate in military training without detriment to earned vacation time, promotions, and job benefits is essential to the maintenance of a strong Guard and Reserve force.

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(b) RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF GUARD AND RESERVE.—It continues to be the sense of Congress that the citizen-military volunteers who serve the Nation as members of the National Guard and Reserve require and deserve public recognition of the essential role they play in the national defense, and particularly require and deserve the support and cooperation of their civilian employers, in order to be fully ready to respond to national emergencies.

(c) EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR GUARD AND RESERVE.—The Congress reaffirms its statements expressed in section 1130(c) of Public Law 97-252 that it—

(1) recognizes, and requests all citizens to recognize, the vital need for a trained, ready National Guard and Reserve in the national defense posture of the United States; and

(2) urges and requests employers and supervisors of employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve to abide by the provisions of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, by—

(A) granting a leave of absence for military training, exclusive of earned vacation, to employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve; and

(B) providing such employees equal consideration for job benefits and promotions as all other employees.

Amend the title so as to read: "A joint resolution to reaffirm Congress' recognition of the vital role played by members of the National Guard and Reserve in the national defense.".

EXPLANATION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The committee adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute during the consideration of House Joint Resolution 220. The resolution, as amended, is discussed below.

PURPOSE

The purpose of House Joint Resolution 220 is to reaffirm Congressional recognition of and support for the vital role of the National Guard and Reserve in the Nation's armed forces.

DISCUSSION

Today the National Guard and Reserve are an integral part of the armed forces of the United States. Under the Total Force Policy, the Reserve components will be used as the initial and primary augmentation of the active forces in the event of mobilization. In many instances, the active forces would be unable to deploy and accomplish their mission without National Guard and Reserve augmentation. The Guard and Reserve today are expected to provide nearly one-half of the total Army's combat power and two-thirds of its combat support, service structure, and wartime medical capability.

To fulfill mission requirements, National Guard and Reserve personnel must have the opportunity for meaningful and realistic training—both at monthly inactive duty training drills and two weeks' active duty for training. Participation in Reserve training requires the understanding and cooperation of employers.

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House Joint Resolution 220 calls attention to the vital role that employers play in their employees' decisions to maintain active Reserve and Guard membership and urges strong employer support of the National Guard and Reserve.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On March 18, 1986, a quorum being present, the Committee on Armed Services ordered the resolution favorably reported by a voice vote.

FISCAL DATA

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee has determined that the enactment of House Joint Resolution 220 will result in no additional cost to the government in fiscal year 1985 and the five following fiscal years. The committee has received no estimate of cost from any government agency.

INFLATION-IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee examined the possible inflationary impact of the bill. The committee believes that the enactment of this legislation will not have an inflationary impact on the economy of the United States.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee has not received a report from the Committee on Government Operations in regard to this matter.

With reference to clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee finds and recommends that the legislation be enacted pursuant to its oversight responsibilities.

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